

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 198559
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:BDF
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH
-----111565 200152Z /61
O 200131Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198559

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. YOU MAY ASSURE EVRON THAT DISTRIBUTION OF TELEGRAMS
IN WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT IS HIGHLY RESTRICTED.
DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH CABLES IS EVEN MORE RESTRICTED WHEN
THEY ARE BASED ON CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN YOU AND SENIOR GOI
OFFICIALS OR DINITZ AND SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

2. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, GUARANTEE THAT "HIGH ADMINISTRA-
TION SOURCE" DID NOT TALK TO EVANS. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE
NOTED THAT SUBJECT OF ISRAELI CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION IN
SOUTHERN LEBANON AND POSSIBLE ISRAELI MILITARY INTERVENTION
IS SUBJECT OF PRESS SPECULATION IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS
IN JERSUALEM AND IN MOST OTHER INTERESTED CAPITALS. AS
CONCERNS ISRAEL, WE WOULD ONLY CITE AUGUST 18 ARTICLE IN
YEDIOT WHICH READS IN PART:

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"PRIME MINISTER MENACHIM BEGIN ANSWERED THE MESSAGE SENT
HIM BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND PROMISED THAT ISRAEL WILL ACT
CAREFULLY AND WITH RESTRAINT WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENTS
IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

NEVERTHELESS, THE PRIME MINISTER EMPHASIZED IN HIS REPLY

THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE GETTING MORE SERIOUS BY THE DAY AND ENDANGER THE PEACE OF THE CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE CHRISTIANS ARE SUBJECT TO UNCEASING ATTACKS BY THE TERRORISTS WHO ARE HEAVILY ARMED AND GREATLY OUT-NUMBER THE CHRISTIANS.

IT HAS BECOME KNOWN THAT CHRISTIAN COMMANDERS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON ASKED THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL TO INTERVENE MORE ACTIVELY IN ORDER TO RESCUE THE CHRISTIAN MINORITY."

3. EVANS TOLD DEPTOFF ON AUGUST 17 THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED "BY HIGH ADMINISTRATION SOURCE" THAT ISRAEL MIGHT WELL MOVE INTO SOUTH LEBANON IF THE ISRAELIS THOUGHT THERE WAS ANY CHANCE THAT THE PLO WOULD ACCEPT 242 ALONG THE LINES PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SUGGESTED. WHOLE THRUST OF EVANS' SPECULATION WAS THAT ISRAEL WOULD MOVE TO THWART THE PLO, NOT TO SAVE THE CHRISTIANS. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, DEPTOFF TOLD EVANS HE DID NOT AGREE WITH HIS THESIS. WE UNDERSTAND EVANS THEN TRIED TO GET SOME CONFIRMATION OF THIS LINE FROM ISRAELI PRESS ATTACHE WHO REPORTEDLY WAS NOT HELPFUL.

4. WE CONCLUDE THAT EVANS IS TRYING TO GET SOME SUPPORT FOR SPECULATIVE STORY WHICH HE HAS SOURCED TO SOMEONE IN THE USG. GIVEN NATURE OF HIS SPECULATIVE LINE AND ABSENCE OF KIND OF DETAILS CONTAINED IN OUR RECENT EXCHANGES OF CONFIDENTIAL

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TELEGRAMS ON THIS SUBJECT, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THIS ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL, IF THERE IS ONE, HAS ACCESS TO THESE EXCHANGES.

5. HOPE FOREGOING WILL BE HELPFUL RE REPLY. VANCE

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APPROVED BY: S/S:SGOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198559

NODIS

FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION TEL AVIV FROM STATE AUG 20:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198559

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTHERN LEBANON
TAGS: PINR, IS, LE
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
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